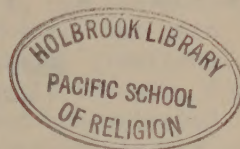


#525 October 7, 1977

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AIRSHO '77 REACTIONS  
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(In response to the article, "A-Bomb Reenactment to Be Repeated" in JCAN #523, Sept. 16, we received the following reader responses: Stan MANIERRE, a returned missionary and former POW in Japan writes that he appealed to a meeting of the Asian-American Baptist Ministries at Valley Forge, Pa. on Sept. 23-24 regarding the proposed Airsho. Below are excerpts from a letter sent to the director of the public affairs office of Airsho '77 by Doris HARTMAN. A poem from an A-bomb victim follows. --Eds.)

"....Since I have lived in Hiroshima for over 20 years I have guided many people through the atomic museum and I can imagine something of the horror of the city on Aug. 6, 1945. In addition I know many people who still suffer from the effects of radiation and burns as well as many others who wonder when they might become the victims of leukemia or cancer as a result of their massive dose of radiation.

A few years ago I had a chance to make my own study at Boston University graduate school about the decision to drop the atomic bombs on Japan. I wanted to find out from reading the many accounts now in existence whether the oft-heard statement is true that using the atom bomb was the only alternative to massive land invasion which would have cost more lives.

I discovered that even other branches of the military (Navy and Air Force) did not believe a land invasion was the only alternative....but the President heard only the possibility of a massive land invasion since the Army prevailed over the other two branches.

....Even more important is the failure of our government to make a more serious attempt to end the war by political means. Everyone knew that Japan was already defeated and that they had asked Russia to mediate an end to the war. Many people who knew Japan well believed that if the U.S. had let Japan know they could keep their emperor after surrender, they would have been willing to give up sooner. So it might have been possible to end the war before Russia intervened and before the atomic bombs were dropped.

...Another important point which I wish you would take into account is the international repercussions of this event. I was saddened and disappointed when I read about last year's show, but I assumed that those who planned it had not been aware of the feeling it would evoke among people here, particularly those who are suffering from the aftereffects of the bomb. Now that you are planning to repeat it in spite of knowing this, makes me wonder if you are really concerned about creating a peaceful world.

Most Japanese who lived through the war freely admit that their country followed a foolhardy course in attacking Pearl Harbor. They refuse to hate me as an

MORE

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American in spite of suffering the atom bomb because they believe that hating war is what is really important. They agree that every country commits inhuman acts in times of war, and that we all must cooperate to bring about the assurance that such destruction of human life could never happen again. I beg you to devote your energy and imagination to finding ways to help people be aware that we live in one world where the lives of all of us depend on learning to understand each other."

\* \* \* \* \*

America, Do Not Perish At Your Own Hands

--In Protest of the Texas Air Show--

by KURIHARA Sadako

A generation later  
When the writing on the granite sepulcher in Peace Park  
Had begun to seem like a riddle out of ancient history,  
An object of speculation:  
"What is 'the mistake?'"  
"Who will repeat it?"  
Across the sea  
Hiroshima was repeated as an attraction at an air show;  
A mushroom cloud was made to soar up High into Texas' autumn sky.  
The spectators  
Were not burned by a flash  
Were not blanketed by the ashes of death  
Were not soaked by a tarry black rain.  
  
You dead who were blasted by the blazing fury  
And melted into thin air,  
You dead who were driven by flames to the river banks  
And passed out on top of one another,  
You dead who were encircled by walls of fire  
And burned even as you still lived,  
You black twisted multitudes of dead  
Who lay slowly decaying on the scorched earth  
In the sweltering August sun,  
You dead who were stacked up in piles  
And doused with gasoline  
To be burned like trash,  
You dead who fled so desperately  
Dragging the skin that dangled like strings from your bodies  
Only to drop in the midst of your flight,  
You dead who lay on rough straw mats in relief camps  
Your hair falling out, your bodies bursting  
With tiny subcutaneous blood spots,  
Retching blood until the end-  
You were all crushed by the single bomb  
That turned day into night  
Turned hot summer into cold summer

And turned Hiroshima into the end of the earth,  
Your voices have reached no one.  
  
The sound of the bomb echoes still  
As victims of radiation effects  
And survivors hiding their keloid scars  
Live on among the buildings and the rush hours  
Like faded shadows, forgotten;  
Second and third generation children  
taken suddenly by leukemia  
And thirty-one year old microcephalics  
speaking broken baby-talk  
Sadden the hearts of their aging parents.  
  
"We shall not repeat the mistake."  
So we vowed.  
But it is you who must vow, America-  
You who possess the bombs  
To burn Hiroshima a hundred million times over.  
Do not perish at your own hands.  
  
When the one hundred million Hiroshimas  
Explode inside you, America,  
Your people will vanish  
Into the far off sky  
Without even a moment to remember,  
"Oh, Hiroshima."  
Then I will send you sympathies  
In the names of the three hundred thousand  
who perished in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.  
And a word to your heroes, America,  
Who tell us they would gladly repeat the act  
If the President so orders:  
The hell beneath the mushroom cloud  
May be forgiven by God,  
But never by Man.

--translated by:

Osamu and Jaylene MASACKA  
Wayne and Cheryl LAMMERS  
Miyao OHARA



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*Pandora's Box Opens*  
ATOMIC ENERGY IN JAPAN'S FUTURE  
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-Anthony CARTER

Japan's animation industry is thriving. This has been the case since the advent of television because of the heavy use of animation for children's programs. The animation diet fed to children day in and day out depicts, for the most part, a heavily-aggressive technologically-sophisticated super society. The main feature of this animation-portrayed society, is a deep and almost irrational dependence on excessive amounts of hard technology. As a result of this, for the next generation of adults, a society without excessive and concentrated hard technology will be unthinkable. Television, a hard technology in its own right, is fast breeding a nation of technocrats worshipping at the feet of this very technology.

One manifestation of this long term motivational input can be seen in the results of certain of the more recent sociological surveys. One example is the result of a study completed by the Commission for Promotion of Peace Education in Nagasaki, a branch of the powerful Japan Teachers' Union. The inquiry probes city students' attitudes toward atomic bomb victims living today. The results indicate that on all fronts there is a great drop in concern for the victims of the atomic bombings while at the same time there is a great increase in the number of city students who believe that Japan should acquire its own atomic arsenal.

To maintain, then, this emerging vision of the new "utopia" for Japan, the one essential of singular importance is energy in vast quantities. As far as the government of Japan is concerned, a commitment to vastly increased energy consumption is the most visible political reality of the day.

90% For        It is not so much the simple minded quantitative approach to energy  
Atomic        production that one might quarrel with but the quality of this thrust  
Program       toward geometrical increases in energy output. Whereas in other  
              countries government level energy development budgets may see about  
50 or more per cent of funds committed to nuclear programs with the remainder  
going to all other viable forms, in Japan fully 95 per cent of the nation's  
energy development budget goes for nuclear power, with the remaining five per  
cent        for all other viable options. Japan's delegate to the annual general  
conference of the International Atomic Energy indicated that Japan was fully  
determined to develop its nuclear program to the maximum. The government dele-  
gate said, "It is an urgent necessity, as a matter of basic national policy, to  
develop nuclear power generation, to establish a nuclear fuel cycle and to  
introduce the fast breeder reactor."

The sad fact about Japan's short nuclear development history is that nuclear power generation has been treated with about the same level of uncaring as the production of plasticizers in the plant that was the ultimate cause of the Minamata Disease. Besides this increase in environmental pollution from nuclear sources and related human costs, the costs of nuclear power generation in Japan have been excessively high in monetary terms. To grasp the problem in easier monetary terms relative to efficiency levels, between April and August of 1977 the average availability factor for Japan's thirteen atomic power plants was a poor 45.1. This means that for only about 45.1 per cent of the time these plants have been producing electricity. The rest of the time they have been shut down for repairs which are also costly and polluting. For the same period the capacity factor has been a poor 41.9 per cent which means that for the limited period of time when the plants have been operating they have been producing only about 41.9 per cent of energy output design capacity. These figures are on the average better than for most other periods when the output orientations have been even worse. Only a very few months ago only four of the thirteen reactors were functioning and even then at only partial capacity.

(....more)



The Tokyo Electric Power Company has revealed that its technical trouble at the Fukushima atomic energy generating facility has cost it over the years 20 billion yen or about US\$70 million.

Long-term View      The continuing series of shutdowns with their attendant radiation releases during the short period that Japan has been Very Bleak      experimenting with nuclear power, makes the long-term picture very bleak in terms of radiological pollution and its effects on the human environment, not to mention the excessive monetary and capital costs involved in this particular power game.

Japan has other energy options such as solar, tidal, geothermal, hydroelectric, coal, solar hydrogen, solar alcohol, biological and even other longer-term exotic energy sources. But for the most part these other options are being ignored except for some development of hard technology-concentrated solar power for industrial uses.

Becoming more and more aware of the potential for long-term environmental disaster as well as the excessive maintenance and repair costs involved in the running of nuclear power plants, citizens' movements have increased somewhat their level of visibility and opposition. But for the most part in Japan, the television screen maintains the people in a condition of submissiveness and therefore suspended animation in which the basic tendency is to be seen in a self-propelling flow towards an increased hardness of the technological modes of life.

There is no way that one could convincingly argue that Christians in Japan are heavily involved in the movements against nuclear power. But the National Christian Council of Japan has gone on record as opposing nuclear power and at least one church in Tokyo has opened its offices to three cooperating anti-nuclear citizens' movements. The people of Japan do not yet understand the excessive costs of nuclear power. Let us hope that the learning of that difficult lesson does not require a massive power plant accident as the cost of tuition to the school of hard knocks.

Hard technology engenders hardened human beings. The television animators are the high priests of hard technology and the citizens' movements have to compete, in their opposition to this hardened mode of life, with a powerful and pervasive attitude forming mass media. Japan's worship of hard technology will probably be very costly in the long run to the people of these islands.

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NCCJ  
CELEBRATES 70th YEAR

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-John REAGAN

The 70th anniversary of mission in Christian Education in Japan was celebrated at the Toyo Eiwa Junior College on Sept. 23-24, under the leadership of the Division of Christian Education of the National Christian Council of Japan. The NCC Division of Christian Education is the present organization through which descendants of the early Sunday School movement work.

The theme, "Christian Education as Opening Up the Future," was approached in various ways by over 270 participants--almost half of whom were under 35 years of age. The youth of the participants indicates a high level of interest on the part of those who will bring leadership in the future as well as a present desire to work and worship with others involved in Christian Education.

The program leadership was also comparatively young. "This is a generation of Christian Education leaders that has developed since World War II," is the way one observer put it. For our overseas readers it seems worth adding that no

(....more)



foreigners were on the program since leadership in Christian Education is in the hands of nationals educated since the war.

As participants sought to find handles to open up the future they did so in the light of an understanding of the past with suggestions for present mission. Addresses by MATSUKAWA Shigeo, professor of Christian Education at Tokyo Women's Christian University and NABEKURA Isao, holder of a doctor's degree in education and pastor of Torikai Baptist Church showed how christian education was always related to various movements in society as well as inside the church. They also suggested ways this outward looking emphasis could continue.

The afternoon of the first day, registrants met in discussion groups set up to elicit suggestions for looking toward future mission. These groups focused on various problems and issues which had been identified. Out of a number of these groups came calls for an educational relation to the local communities in which the churches find themselves. Others called for inter-denominational and inter-congregational joint educational activities at the local level. A concern for both society and ecumenism seems to be alive in christian education,

A commemorative worship service was held on the morning of the second day with Prof. TAKEUCHI Hiroshi of Rikkyo (St. Paul's) University preaching. While pointing out that the church in Japan is mature and involved in mission as she herself sees it, he suggested that the fact that he was wearing, in the heat of the afternoon, a type of robe that had been designed in cool England, indicates that some of the traditions of the west might now be examined in the light of the Japanese context.

The concluding program consisted of a performance of "The Prodigal Son"--a liturgical opera written originally to be performed in church sanctuaries. The opera, written by Benjamin Britton, was sung in Japanese. Several described it as a fitting climax to the program.

The Japan Bible Society has published a Commemorative Edition of the Japanese Bible with 32 pages of study helps prepared by the Division of Christian Education. (This study-help Bible, in an attractive binding, is available from the Division of Christian Education for ¥1,500 plus postage at this address.)\*

To aid in opening up the future while drawing on the past, a chronology has been prepared that traces the development of christian education from the old Sunday School movement in England through to the present Division of Christian Education. The present work of the Division of Christian Education includes mission in church school education, secular and Christian school education, theological education and in other areas. This 136 page book, *Nihon Ni Okeru Kyokai Gakko No Ayumi* (The Japanese Church School Movement) is also available at this address for ¥2,000 plus postage.)

(\*For address, see first page of JCAN--Eds.)

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#### ----- A NOTE ON ALCOHOLISM -----

The problem of alcoholism is increasing every year. The number of alcoholics in Japan is estimated to be over 1,500,000 people. Although the Women's Christian Temperance Union's movement to eliminate vending machines of alcoholic beverages from the streets has been patiently continued, the social mood tends to intensify the alcoholic problems of young people and women.

A recent survey of the 38 women alcoholics in the Kurigahama hospital indicates that the average age of the patients is 39.6. Seventy per cent of them have more than a high school education and 70% are married women. Most of them started drinking in their teens out of curiosity when invited by others. Half of them

(.../more)



CLIPPINGS FROM THE JAPANESE PRESS

-compiled by C. KORIYAMA

POPULAR TV GAMES--During the first six months of this year it was the fashion for junior high and elementary school children to take pictures of very expensive cars using their single lense reflex cameras. These same children are now excited about TV electronic games. During the long rainy summer the popularity of the games jumped to great heights because of massive advertisement campaigns. Pro and con opinions about this phenomenon can be heard among adults. "Playing with these electronic machines does not make use of muscles nor help with the growth of imagination and creativity." On the other hand, "Playing games requires that certain rules be kept using things already available. TV games are similar to other games in this respect." The makers, seeing an abundant availability of TV sets in Japan, looks to this Christmas as a crucial period for sale of TV games.

(Sankei Living Shinbun)

SALARY LEVELS--The white paper on salary levels for private enterprise workers has just been published by the national tax office. The national average income was ¥2,290,000 (\$8,800) before taxes. This is a 12.8% increase over the previous year. However, the cost of living index went up 9.3%. Also there was a 29% increase in the income tax rate on this average salary. This means that the actual yearly increase in spending power was a poor 2.9%. Yet this was basically wiped out with the rates for pension and medical insurance going up. Among the private companies, salary differences are great. In large enterprises with more than 1,000 workers, the average salary is ¥2,102,000, but in small businesses employing less than 30 workers the average is ¥1,696,000 (\$6,500). This means smaller businesses are at a level that is 81% of the large enterprises. The ratio of bonus differences between the small and big firms is 36 to 100. The best salaries are pegged at an average ¥2,900,000 in banks and insurance companies and the lowest at ¥1,820,000 in textile industries.

(Nikkei Shinbun)

NUISANCE CALLS--A recently expanding social problem is the nuisance telephone call which results in greater mental anguish to the receiver. In search of a solution to this problem a company has come out with what they call the "seek phone". When this device is connected to a regular telephone an internal signal lets the caller know through a cassette tape recording that they are connected to the special device. The caller must listen to these signals and then cut the telephone call upon hearing a certain pre-determined number of signals. Then the caller can dial the telephone again this time being connected to the desired phone. If the caller does not know the number of signals to count before dialing again, the call cannot be completed. This cuts down the number of mischief calls because the caller has to dial twice. Further, if the caller does not know the cipher number, the telephone will not connect. The telephone company has not given official permission for usage, but the maker is trying to promote the product.

(Sankei Shinbun)

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(continued from page 5)

used to drink whisky and 1/3 of them said they drank Japanese sake (rice wine). The survey pointed out that the main reason for habitual drinking was caused by an unsatisfactory relationship with their husband.

In Tokyo the Salvation Army has opened the Jijokan home for alcoholics in connection with the Kiyose Salvation Army hospital. At the present time this is only for men but family counselling is also available. The users of the home are introduced by various welfare offices and can receive medical tests, treatment of physical sicknesses, and life guidance including occupational training.